

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Thirteenth National Symposium on Doctoral Research in Social Work

**April 6, 2001
The Ohio State University
College of Social Work**

**Drake Union River Den
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CONTENTS

Foreword

Tony Tripodi, D.S.W	iii
---------------------	-----

Keynote Address

Mansoor A. F. Kazi Reader and Director of Centre for Evaluation Studies The University of Huddersfield "Realist Evaluation for Practice"	1
--	---

Presenters

Christopher M. Chacha Ph.D., The University of Alabama, 2000 "Factors Influencing Service Use Among Families of Children with Cerebral Palsy"	22
--	----

Darla Spence Coffey Ph.D., Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work, 1999 "Connection and Autonomy in the Case Management Relationship"	28
--	----

Gary Lee Dick Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2000 "The Role of Paternal Involvement in Male Violence Against Female Intimates"	36
--	----

Sharon Denise Johnson Ph.D., Washington University, 1999 "The Interaction of Social and Psychosocial Factors in the Development of Violence: Reformulation of Theory Examining a Sample of African American Youth"	45
---	----

Marilyn J. Kennedy Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, 2000 "The Effect of Neighborhood Environments on Schizophrenic Relapse: A Sociocultural Perspective"	50
--	----

Laura Jean Pankow Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2000 “Evaluating a Multi-Disciplinary Rehabilitation Program for Older Adults with Visual Impairment”	56
Cynthia K. Sanders Ph.D., Washington University, 2000 “Microenterprise Versus The Labor Market Among Low Income Workers”	60
Catherine A. Worthington Ph.D., University of Toronto, 2001 “Being Tested: Client Views of HIV Testing Services”	67
Appendix National Symposium on Doctoral Research Presenters and Keynote Speakers 1985—2001	A-1

FOREWORD

The dialogue between social work researchers and practitioners has been a critical part of the academic tradition in social work, and The Ohio State University College of Social Work's National Symposium on Doctoral Research and Social Work has provided a unique forum for the dissemination of doctoral research on timely issues in our society. The themes of past Symposia have reflected not only the importance of the topics but the significance of graduate research to the continuing development of knowledge. The interplay between research and practice is essential for the continuing vitality of social work.

We are beginning to reap the rewards, bringing practice ideas to the forefront: the Symposium has traditionally fostered the kind of discourse on practice and research that we believe to be crucial to the social work field. One of the chief strengths of the Symposium has been to showcase the rigor and diversity of scope of the doctoral programs that our presenters have represented. Moreover, the Symposium has consistently made measurable contributions to the goals of social work, as knowledge-building ultimately and ideally creates positive changes in the social climate.

Social work's goals, then, are ultimately practice-related. Social work research serves the overall interests of the profession, including social justice and the enhancement of life for all people. The diversity of issues and topics disseminated in the Symposia through the years symbolizes the diversity within the profession. The research undertaken within the Ivory Tower is critical but not sufficient in itself for the progress of the discipline; for the profession of social work, knowledge is also generated in the field, inductively. Social work professionals develop specific knowledge--sometimes called "practice wisdom"--through reflection. These ideas are studied, validated, and integrated into the education base. The outstanding scholarship of the Symposium documents the richness of this alliance between professional practice and academe in the research development specific to the social work profession.

The 2001 Symposium was a forum for the intellectual exchange of highly admired scholars and new researchers, and for representatives of the practice community--people with extensive professional backgrounds in the field. I hope the Proceedings that follow will spark a continuing dialogue on issues that were brought to light in this year's Symposium. My thanks to everyone involved for contribution to a highly successful event.

Tony Tripodi
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